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DOVER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1951

C. F. LYNCH, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

A. R. Adams & Son, 37 Castle Street, Dover

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Lt.-Col. W. Farrier (*Chairman*)

Mesdames W. Hogg and E. A. Manley.

Messrs. J. Collard
W. E. Gascoine
G. F. Hurley
K. J. Madge
J. C. Robertson
A. U. Whitworth

Messrs. W. H. Fish
W. E. Hollis
C. G. Lines
H. S. Paterson
H. E. Russell
P. E. Wootton

C. D. Young

OFFICERS and STAFF

Clerk to the Authority :

H. F. Abbott

Medical Officer of Health :

T. J. Nicholl, F.R.C.S., D.P.H. (*retired* 30*th June*, 1951)

C. F. Lynch, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.,
(*with effect from* 1*st July*, 1951)

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

W. O. Armstrong, Cert. R.S.I., S.I.J.B.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector :

E. W. G. Rathmell, Cert. R.S.I., S.I.J.B.

Clerical Assistant :

Miss D. Baldwin

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
BROOK HOUSE,
DOVER.

To: *The Chairman and Members of the Dover Rural District Council:*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of Dover Rural District for the year 1951.

During the first half of the year the Rural District was included in the East Kent (No. 2) United District for purposes in connection with the appointment of a Medical Officer of Health, which appointment was governed by a joint committee on which the Dover Rural District Council was represented.

With the retirement on the 30th June, 1951, of Dr. Nicholl, Medical Officer of Health for the United District, and my appointment as Medical Officer of Health for the Dover Rural District, the joint committee ceased to function and responsibility for the new appointment in respect of the Rural District became vested in the Council's Public Health Committee.

Vital statistics for the year showed a very slight decline in the birth rate, the figures being 16.1 per thousand of the population compared with 16.5 for 1950. The rate for England and Wales was 15.5.

The death rate per thousand of the population was 9.8, which is a decrease of 2.3 on the figure for the previous year. The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 12.5.

Heart disease was again the principal cause of death and deaths from Cancer showed an increase during the year.

The Infant Mortality rate was 33 per thousand live births, being 8.6 lower than in 1950 but still above the rate for England and Wales, which was 29.6.

Apart from Measles and Whooping Cough, the incidence of infectious diseases was low, no cases of diphtheria or poliomyelitis having been notified.

Sanitary conditions in the area continued to receive close attention and progress was made with schemes to provide adequate drainage for a number of parishes.

The total number of new houses completed was 60 while 48 were under construction at the end of the year.

In submitting this report I would like to express the appreciation of the Department's staff to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their continued support, and to thank the Clerk and the Senior Sanitary Inspector for the information supplied for inclusion in this report.

I have the Honour to be,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
C. F. LYNCH,
Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1952.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The district is bounded roughly as follows:—On the North by the Rural Districts of Bridge-Blean and Eastry and the Borough of Deal; on the East by the sea; on the South by the Borough of Dover, the sea and the Borough of Folkestone, and on the West by the Rural Districts of Elham and Bridge-Blean.

The following Civil Parishes are situated within the boundary:—

Alkham, Capel, Coldred, Denton, Guston, Hougham, East Langdon, West Langdon, Lydden, Ringwould, River, Shepherdswell, St. Margaret's, Temple Ewell, Whitfield, Wootton.

Area (including inland water), 25, 797 acres.

Population: (*a*) Estimated mid-year Home population 11,360
(*b*) Preliminary 1951 Census figures ... 10,493

(NOTE: *All rates are calculated on the Registrar General's estimated mid-year Home Population of* 11,360).

Number of Inhabited Houses, 3,163.

Rateable Value, £83,949.

Sum represented by a 1d. rate, £345 9s. 7d.

Density of Population — Persons per acre, 0.44.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

1. Births.

(*a*) Registered Live Births:—

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Legitimate ...	96	79	175
Illegitimate ...	4	4	8
	100	83	183

Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 of estimated population) ... 16.1

Legitimate Live Births per 1,000 of estimated population 15.4

Illegitimate Live Births per 1,000 of estimated population 0.7

(*b*) Stillbirths:—

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Legitimate ...	—	1	1
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
	—	1	1

Stillbirth Rate (per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths) 5.43

2. **Deaths.**

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Registered	58	54	112

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population ... 9.86

3. **Infant Mortality.**

Deaths under 1 year:—

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	—	1	1
	3	3	6

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births ... 33

4. **Specially Recorded Deaths.**

Cancer (all ages)	22
Measles (all ages)	—
Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

5. **Causes of Death in Year 1951:—**

Causes of Death	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	2	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	5	—	5
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	4	15
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	3	10	13
Coronary Diseases, Angina	3	4	7
Hypertension with heart disease ...	2	3	5
Other Heart disease	11	15	26
Other Circulatory disease	1	3	4
Influenza...	2	—	2
Pneumonia	5	3	8
Bronchitis	2	2	4
Other diseases of Respiratory System ...	1	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	2	—	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate...	1	—	1
Congenital malformations	1	—	1
Other defined and illdefined diseases ...	3	6	9
Motor Vehicle accidents	1	—	1
All Causes	58	54	112

6. **Comparative Rates.**

	Dover Rural District 1950	Dover Rural District 1951	England and Wales 1951
	(Per 1,000 Home Population)		
Births:—			
Live Births ...	16.5	16.1	15.5
Still Births ...	—	0.09	0.36
Deaths:—	12.1	9.86	12.5
Deaths:—	(Per 1,000 Live Births)		
All Causes under 1 year of Age ...	41.4	32.8	29.6
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age ...	5.2	5.5	1.4
Maternal Mortality:—	(Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births)		
All Causes ...	—	—	0.79

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities

Clinical material for examination may be submitted to the local Hospitals' Laboratory Service as well as to the County Public Health Laboratory at Maidstone, where all routine examinations of samples of milk, water etc. are carried out.

Hospitals

There are no hospitals situated within the Rural District and three hospitals in the Borough of Dover, which are administered by the South East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, provide appropriate facilities for general medical, surgical, maternity and infectious cases.

Nursing in the Home

The Kent County Council, as the administrative Authority responsible, provides this service in the Rural Area.

Clinics and Welfare Centres

The County Council as Local Health and Education Authority provides various specialist and consultant services for expectant and nursing mothers, infants, toddlers and children of school age.

The Regional Hospital Board also provides local clinic services including facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis and of venereal disease.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

Some 95% of the houses in the Rural District are supplied from the public mains. Of the sixteen parishes in the district, twelve are supplied by the East Kent Water Company, two by the Folkestone Waterworks Company and two by the Mid Kent Water Company. Two small areas at Alkham and Capel were still under consideration for a mains supply at the end of the year.

Reports on samples taken from the public water supply show that the water is quite satisfactory.

Three samples of water were taken, one from a well, one from a water tank and one from a tap fed direct from a cistern which in turn is fed from the main supply. In the former two samples there was evidence of recent contamination, but in the latter sample there was no evidence of recent contamination.

Drainage and Sewerage

There are no main sewerage systems in operation in the area and sewage is disposed of by means of cesspools, septic tanks, pail closets and chemical closets.

Number of houses on cesspools and septic tanks in the district	2,399
Number of pail and chemical closets in the district ...	764

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government have now sanctioned the schemes for the sewerage of Temple Ewell, River and Capel. A tender has been accepted for the scheme for Temple Ewell and River, and agreement has been reached with the Dover Borough for the disposal of the effluent. It is hoped to commence the work shortly.

No further progress has yet been made with the schemes for the sewerage of Whitfield, Lydden, Shepherdswell, St. Margarets and Ringwould.

Scavenging

The collection and removal of domestic refuse, the emptying of cesspools and collection of pails has been carried out by direct labour, and has worked very satisfactorily.

Salvage

This is under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, who reports on the year's work as follows :—

Weights of material collected, 49 tons 8 cwts.

Amount received for the material, £846.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

(1) Number of inspections made during the year, 1,730.

(2) Number of notices served, Statutory, 1: Informal, 24.

(3) Nuisances and defects remedied during the year:

Drainage:	
(*a*) Reconstructed	2
(*b*) Cleansed	3
Cesspools:	
Repaired	2
Emptied	1,307
Dampness	23
Roofs and Rain Water Pipes ...	18
Floors	12
Walls and Ceilings	35
Water Supplies	2
Miscellaneous	23

Shops Act, 1950

Sixty-five inspections of shops were made, and any necessary instructions given in regard to ventilation, temperature, lighting and sanitary accommodation. No formal action was necessary.

Factories Act, 1937:

(i) Registered Factories:—

With mechanical power	23
Without mechanical power	22
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by local Authority	6
	51

(ii) Inspections:

Premises	*Inspections*	*No. of written notices*	*Occupiers Prosecuted*
Factories with mechanical power	69	1	—
Factories without mechanical power	63	—	—
Other premises	13	—	—
Total	145	1	—

(iii) Defects:

Particulars	Number of Defects Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by	Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of Cleanliness ...	2	2	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:—					
Unsuitable or Defective...	1	1	—	1	—
Total	3	3	—	1	—

Verminous Premises

Eighteen complaints were received, and successful action taken to eradicate.

Destruction of Rats and Mice

Gassing, trapping and poisoning are carried out by a full-time Rodent Operator. Regular surveys of the area have been made during the year.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year:—

No. of infestations found:

Rats, Major	7
Rats, Minor	157
Mice, Major	—
Mice, Minor	11

Estimated Kill:

Rats	723
Mice	23
No. of rat bodies picked up ...	231
No. of mice bodies picked up ...	20

Camping Sites

There are four sites registered in the district, for the summer months only, viz, Capel-le-Ferne 4. These are kept under regular supervision.

SECTION D

HOUSING

Houses were inspected upon complaint, and notices served in the case of urgent repairs being required.

Seventy-one Building Licences were issued.

Number of inspections made with regard to the issue of Building Licences	400
Number of houses owned by the Local Authority ...	212
Number of houses under construction	44

During the year the Council's post war housing programme entailing the construction of 266 houses was proceeded with and at the end of the year 42 houses were completed and 44 under construction.

The 204 houses built under the post war housing schemes are as follows:

Alkham 4; Capel 14; Coldred 6; East Langdon 4; Guston 8; Hougham 8; Ringwould 38; St. Margaret's 48; Shepherdswell 44; Whitfield 22; River 4; Wootton 4.

Eighteen private enterprise houses were completed during the year, and four under construction. One house destroyed by enemy action was rebuilt.

Total No. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts ...	110
Number of inspections made for the purpose	195
Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
Number of houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	24
Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	19

Housing Act

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices requiring repairs were served	1
Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	1
By Owner	1

Rural Housing Survey

During the year five houses were inspected and recorded.

Number of inspections made for this purpose ...	8

At the end of the year the position of the Rural Housing Survey was as follows:

Number of houses inspected and recorded	1,855

The categories into which they have been placed are as follows:

Category 1. Fit in all respects	1,246
Category 2. Minor defects	468
Category 3. Major defects but repairable at reasonable cost	94
Category 4. Appropriate for reconditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts	11
Category 5. Unfit and beyond repair at reasonable cost	36

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk

During the year the Sanitary Inspectors made regular visits to retail dairies; one defect was found and remedied.

(*a*) Number of Registered Distributors	4
Number of Registered Dairies	2

(*b*) Milk (Special Designations) Regulations:

The following licences were granted by the Dover Rural District Council.

Supplementary Pasteurised	1
Supplementary Tuberculin Tested	1
Dealer's Pasteurised	9
Dealer's Accredited	1
Dealer's Tuberculin Tested	4

Meat and Other Foods

The slaughterhouses in the district were closed down at the outbreak of war, and the meat supply is now procured from the Government Slaughterhouse and Wholesale Meat Supply Depot.

The following inspections of food shops were made:

1. Bakehouses	10
2. Butchers	8
3. Other Food preparing places	35

Foodstuffs Condemned During 1951

Canned Goods:

25 tins meat	7 tins fish	57 tins milk
3 tins beans	15 tins soup	2 tins beetroot
9 tins spaghetti	5 tins jam	53 tins fruit
7 tins tomatoes	1 tin carrots	

Ice Cream

The Food and Drugs Act, 1938, which came into operation on the 1st October, 1939, makes it compulsory for all premises used for the sale, or manufacture for sale of ice cream to be registered with the Local Authority.

Number of premises registered	23

Eighteen samples of ice cream were taken during the year and submitted for examination under the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947.

The results were classified as follows:—

Grade 1	11
Grade 2	4
Grade 3	3

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) Notified during 1951—By Age Groups (Corrected).

Age Group	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Whooping Cough	Measles	Puerperal Pyrexia	Dysentery	Malaria
Age unknown	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
Under 1 year	—	—	3	2	—	—	—
1— 2 years	—	—	6	11	—	—	—
2— 3 years	—	1	9	17	—	—	—
3— 4 years	—	—	16	15	—	—	—
4— 5 years	1	—	14	30	—	—	—
5—10 years	1	—	22	67	—	—	—
10—15 years	—	2	3	7	—	—	—
15—20 years	—	2	—	2	—	1	—
20—35 years	—	1	1	4	1	—	2
35—45 years	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
45—65 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and upwards ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	9	76	158	1	1	2
Admitted to Hospital ...	2	5	1	3	1	1	2
Notification Rates per 1,000 Home Population	0.18	0 79	6.69	13.91	0.09	0,09	0.18

2. Diphtheria Immunisation

The scheme for the immunisation of the child population against diphtheria continued throughout the year under the administration of the Kent County Council and I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following information:—

Number of children resident in the Rural District of Dover, who during 1951, received:—

(*a*) Primary Inoculations 183

(*b*) Reinforcing Inoculations 268

Number of children under the age of 15 years on the 31st December, 1951, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date.

Under 5 years	*From 5-15 years*	*Total*
581	1487	2068
59.77%	85.12%	76.06%

3. Vaccination

By courtesy of the County Medical Officer of Health, the following information has been furnished in regard to the vaccinations against smallpox recorded in the Rural District of Dover during 1951.

	Age at 31st December, 1951:—				
	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	15 and over	Total
Number vaccinated ...	59	43	21	18	141
Number re-vaccinated	—	6	9	66	81

4. Tuberculosis

Annual Statement of Cases of Tuberculosis

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
(*a*) Number of Cases of Tuberculosis on Register as at 1st January, 1951	47	46	15	16
(*b*) Number of Cases notified under Regulations of 1930 for first time during year ...	4	3	—	1
(*c*) Restored to Register ...	1	—	—	—
(*d*) Added to Register otherwise than by formal notification	2	2	1	—
(*e*) Cases removed from Register during the year including recoveries or deaths (excluding deaths of unnotified cases)	10	9	—	2
(*f*) Cases on Register at end of 1951	44	42	16	15

Analysis of new cases notified in 1951

Age Periods	New Cases			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
0 —	—	—	—	—
1 —	—	—	—	—
5 —	—	—	—	—
15 —	2	1	—	—
25 —	1	1	—	—
35 —	—	1	—	1
45 —	1	—	—	—
55 —	—	—	—	—
65 +	—	—	—	—
Total	4	3	—	1

Analysis of Mortality in 1951 of Cases on Tuberculosis Register

Age Periods	All Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
0 —	—	—	—	—
1 —	—	—	—	—
5 —	—	—	—	—
15 —	—	—	—	—
25 —	—	—	—	—
35 —	—	—	—	—
45 —	—	2	—	—
55 —	—	—	—	—
65 +	—	—	—	—
Total	—	2	—	—

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925:

No action was necessary in regard to any tuberculous person employed in the milk trade.

Public Health Act, 1936; Section 172:

No action was necessary with regard to the compulsory removal of tuberculosis patients to hospital during the year.

5. Disinfection

The Rural District Council does not possess a disinfecting plant and, where necessary, infected bedding and clothing is disinfected by arrangement with the Hospital Authority.

During the year three batches of clothing were dealt with in this manner.

Number of premises disinfected ... 4

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